

Report of: Executive Member for Community Safety

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Policy and Performance Committee	November 10 2014	C7/8	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Annual Crime and Disorder Report
1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report is to inform the Policy and Performance Committee of the range of activities and achievements for the council and its partners over the past year in response to work to tackle crime and disorder in Islington. The report will also outline some of the emerging challenges and the approaches being adopted to address them in response.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 To acknowledge the strong partnership work between the council and the police
- 2.3 To note that the Council and partners are developing a new strategy to combat violent youth crime

3. Background

- 3.1. During September 2013 to August 2014 Islington saw a 4% reduction in the overall total notifiable offences recorded by the police when compared to the previous twelve months. While this adds to the 12% reduction achieved over the previous year, the rate of reduction is slowing and some serious crime types, mainly violent and acquisitive crimes, are on the increase. Despite some of the credible programmes delivered by the council and partner agencies, it is clear there is still a long way to go to break the cycle of criminality that has engulfed many of our young people, their families and the community.
- 3.2. Incidents of domestic violence and serious youth violence are among the worrying increases in crime types as they both contribute to long-term victimisation and vulnerability. On the one hand they create a legacy of violence and aggression while on the other they ruin the lives of many young people, setting in chain a possible lifetime in criminality or destroying the potential of Islington's future where young's people grow into adulthood without having established sustainable lifestyles for themselves and their families.
- 3.3. Whilst Islington has seen fluctuations in the different types of offences committed over the past year it is clear that offenders also regularly change the nature of their offending. The council is

increasingly aware that a relatively small number of households and individuals represent a significant proportion of crime, with some offenders responsible for multiple offences including some of the gravest offences.

- 3.4. The Government has also introduced a raft of legislative changes, most relevant perhaps are the 2014 ASB, Crime and Policing Act and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, giving local authorities more powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and making significant changes to probation services and the way offenders are managed in the community.
- 3.5. The challenges for the council and its partners are clear although complicated. Overall crime in Islington has declined consistently each year since 2010 and public confidence has reached an all-time high (71% Qtr.1 Public Attitude Survey). But violence, specifically violence against women and serious youth violence is worsening. A long-term and sustainable reduction in these crimes will require significant change in strategy and a continuing partnership commitment. The Council leadership and Members have been considering a new strategy during the Summer months and opening discussions with partner organisations. The strategy will adopt a multiple track: better intelligence; offender management; youth diversion; and more robust enforcement.

Crime Type	Sep 12 to Aug 13	Sep 13 to Aug 14	Difference	% change	Direction of Travel
Total Notifiable Offences	25732	24668	-1064	-4%	↓
MOPAC 7 Offences	12914	12790	-124	-3%	↓
Violence With Injury Offences	1774	1985	211	12%	↑
Burglary (total) Offences	2357	2426	69	3%	↑
Robbery Offences	972	870	-102	-10%	↓
Theft From MV Offences	1693	1706	13	1%	↑
Theft From Person Offences	3851	3316	-535	-14%	↓
Theft/Taking Of MV Offences	592	718	126	21%	↑
Criminal Damage Offences	1675	1769	94	6%	↑
Domestic Incidents	3759	4246	487	13%	↑
Domestic Offences	1604	1776	172	11%	↑
DV VWI Offences	511	572	61	12%	↑

4. Key activities and achievements over the year

4.1 Offender Management

- 4.1.1 The Government introduced a programme to transform rehabilitation of offenders, which has now resulted in splitting the probation services into two. A National Probation Service (NPS) has been set up to manage offenders who pose the highest risk and a series of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) now exists to deliver rehabilitation (probation and resettlement) services in 21 Contract Package Areas (CPAs) across England and Wales. London is a single CPA.
- 4.1.2 Islington was among the first London boroughs to set up a steering group to manage the changes in partnership with the then London Probation Trust and the police. The process has now resulted in a truly integrated offender management approach, enabling local practitioners to collectively risk-assess offenders and develop responses for them. It segments these offenders into Red, Amber and Green strands based on current offending and risk of re-offending. In partnership we have adopted a carrot and stick approach aimed at reducing risk of re-offending and improving community reintegration.
- 4.1.3 The IOM Red strand is for offenders who are actively offending where no other effective case management is in place and there is a real risk of re-offending. It will be led by the Police and will bring together the "Red" cohort from across a number of offending groups, including serious youth violence offenders and domestic violence persistent perpetrators for the purpose of active enforcement and addressing of immediate risk.

4.1.4 The Amber strand will be delivered tactically through NPS and CRC case management and will seek to ensure compliance and that orders of the courts are served. The IOM Green strand is about community re-integration of offenders who have desisted from offending but require a range of community reintegration services around education, training and employment, substance misuse and other support.

4.2 Violence against Women and Girls

4.2.1 Although domestic violence remains the most widely reported form of violence against women and girls, the council and partners have been working to address a range of serious violent crime types that predominately but not exclusively affect females. These include domestic violence and abuse (DVA), rape and sexual violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, crimes in the name of "honour", sexual harassment, trafficking and prostitution/sexual exploitation.

4.2.2 This work has remained a council priority going forward, not least because the number of these offences is increasing. A recent review of crimes against women between September 2013 and August 2014 revealed there were **2,765** Violence Against the Person (VAP) offences involving a female victim. Of these violent offences, 33% (n= 899) were recorded as common assault, followed by 29% (n= 807) ABH & Minor Wounding and 18% Harassment (n= 500). These three offences combined constituted for 80% of all VAP recorded against women. Ten per cent of VAP offences included an alcohol feature code, indicating that either the victim or offender or both had been drinking. Additionally, nearly 42% of VAP included a Domestic Violence marker.

4.2.3 During the year the council has led the commissioning of 3 targeted services to address domestic violence and has also improved working with local partners to address gaps in identification and referrals to provide support. The partnership has also put in place a rigorous case-management process for persistent domestic violence perpetrators, which has already seen stricter control measures put around offending men to increase the safety of their victims.

4.2.4 The three support services commissioned include a BME Service delivered by a consortium of 3 BME Women's organisations, an advocacy service delivered by Solace Women's Aid, and a male domestic violence advocacy service delivered by DVIP (Domestic Violence Intervention project). Within this the council has secured a partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group to implement a programme giving training and support to GPs and pharmacist in identifying victims of domestic violence and referring them to appropriate support.

4.2.5 Through the Safer Islington Partnership, the council is also working with the Whittington Hospital where dedicated staff is available in the accident and emergency department to identify and refer domestic violence victims, including ensuring those at greatest risk are referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing for DV victims.

4.2.6 In June 2013 the partnership set up the Domestic Violence Persistent Perpetrator Panel ("DV triple P"), the first of its kind in London. A look at work done over 4 months (*April to September 2014*) with 50 DV perpetrators revealed that 5 were issued with restraining orders and 8 with other injunctions. An additional 4 perpetrators received custodial sentences, post referral to the panel. The work has revealed the complexity involved in working with offenders, as often many who offend in the borough live elsewhere.

4.2.7 Interestingly, only 15 of the 50 perpetrators in the above period were Islington residents even though they committed crimes in the borough and only 17 were subjected to any statutory order. This truly integrated nature of the work, involving all the relevant agencies (Council, Police, Community Rehabilitation Company and National Probation Service) allow for better information sharing and well-managed balance of enforcement and support.

4.3 Serious Youth Violence

4.3.1 Between September 2013 and August 2014, Youth Violence (24%) and Serious Youth Violence (40%) have both increased. This is believed to be as a result of the significant reduction in theft of smartphones, a crime that plagued the borough for some time up to May 2014 when offences began to show a decrease. Year on year comparison up to September 2014 showed a 30.6% reduction in smartphone theft, representing 570 fewer offences over the twelve-month period.

- 4.3.2 It is clear that many opportunistic offenders will regularly switch between different types of offending and the council and partners will need to increasingly shift focus to offenders and not merely the type of crimes they commit. This will mean having a new approach to tackle persistent offenders and offending families, building on the Integrated Offender Management model referred to above and ensuring all partners work collectively to apply the appropriate balance of carrot and stick to bring about change in offending and reduce re-offending.
- 4.3.3 Since April this year the 18 – 24 Gangs Transition team has worked with 30 young people, delivering 197 contacts in community and custody settings. All new referrals are screened for mental health and substance misuse, and 64 referrals were made to external support services including Arsenal, Abianda, JCP, adult community based substance misuse agencies and ETE providers. The team operates within the Integrated Offender Management arrangements, and where young people do not engage and persist in offending they are targeted for pro-active policing. The probation officers attached to the team from the Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service will also recall young people who do not comply, and there were 23 recalls during the first 6 months of this year.
- 4.3.4 Some of the outcomes achieved in the first six months of this year include 66% of young people not re-offending, with 33% of the cohort having appeared in custody, a 20% reduction on the same period in the previous year. Three young people also gained employment, 11 went into training and education and 7 were removed from the Bronze list due to reduced risk.
- 4.3.5 The council is developing a set of procedures to ensure officers understand how and when they can use appropriate enforcement tools or support enforcement by other statutory agencies. This is to make clear to offenders who continue to re-offend that where appropriate the council too will use its enforcement powers to reduce crime.
- 4.3.6 The work over the coming period will deliver better intelligence flow and management, tough enforcement (Achilles Heel) by all statutory agencies, better co-ordinated diversionary activities, work with schools on long-term behaviour change ensuring links are made with younger siblings of offenders and also reviewing housing estate design and security.

4.4 Preventing Violent Extremism

- 4.4.1 In July 2011, the Government published a new version of the UK's counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST in response to the global threat from terrorism. During the past year the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) assessed the current national threat level as severe - meaning it is highly likely there will be a terrorist attack. According to the Government the threat comes principally from Al Qaida and related networks; and the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL).
- 4.4.2 The Government's strategy covers four broad strands; **1.** A focus on protecting borders, infrastructures, building and public spaces (Protect), **2.** A focus on reducing the impact in the event of an attack (Prepare), **3.** A focus on disrupting or stopping terrorist attacks and prosecuting those responsible (Pursue) and, **4.** A focus on preventing people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism (Prevent).
- 4.4.3 In April 2013 Islington was re-designated as a Prevent borough by the Home Office and the partnership is committed to contributing towards the implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy. The council will support the police and security services in delivering their duty to target and pursue identified terrorist suspects in order to stop them
- 4.4.4 Islington Council has a significant role in preventing violent extremism emerging in the community and over the longer term will work with partners and the community to tackle the drivers that increase the risk of violent extremism.
- 4.4.5 Work done to date include raising awareness among professionals in the local statutory and voluntary sectors to understand the threat and, importantly, to identify and address the risks such as poverty, exclusion and marginalisation experienced by some members of the community.
- 4.4.6 The Executive Member for Community Safety chairs a small steering group overseeing a series of actions to promote cohesion, active citizenship and integration, while at the same time ensure individuals, communities and services are all engaged.
- 4.4.7 The Council has outlined a new approach to the locally delivered "Prevent" strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy and has begun to discuss this with the police and security

services. Over the coming months, the Council will set-out in practical terms how we will deliver a different approach to: awareness raising; referral to the “channel” mechanism; community development; and safeguarding young people.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications

The recommendations set out in the review are accommodated within budget.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications at this time.

5.3 Environmental Implications

There are not environmental implications as part of the implementation of the individual actions.

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Background papers:

- Strategic Assessment 2014 – 2015
- Violence Against Women and Girls Analysis – October 2014

Final report clearance:

Signed by: